



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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All General Practitioners
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c.c. GPC (Wales)

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Dear Colleagues

MenACWY vaccination for all those from 18 up to 25 years

In September this year I wrote to seek your support for the vaccination of first year university students up to 25 years of age against rare but life threatening invasive meningococcal disease.

I am writing now to seek your support in the vaccination of **all** those who are 18 up to 25 years who have not received the vaccine. 60% of young adults in this age cohort are not vaccinated.

The aim of the current MenC vaccination programme is to provide direct protection to toddlers, teenagers and young adults and also to provide indirect protection to the wider population by generating herd immunity. Adolescents and young adults are known to be the main carriers of the meningococcal bacteria at the back of their nose and throats.

Because of this, our meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY) vaccination programme focusses on this age group. As the MenACWY vaccine protects against carriage, vaccinating a high proportion of those eligible in this age group will consequently reduce onward transmission to susceptible children and adults.

The number of cases of MenC remains low but there has been a very gradual rise over the last few years. JCVI believes that optimum control of MenC disease can only be achieved if vaccine coverage in older adolescents and young adults is improved.

I appreciate you will be busy delivering the flu vaccination programme but would welcome your support in opportunistically vaccinating this cohort. The Welsh Government will work with partners to develop a plan for engaging with these young adults and encourage them to come forward for vaccination.

Yours sincerely

DR FRANK ATHERTON



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